

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00279 051950Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05  
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02  
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-20 /165 W

-----078125 051959Z /45

P R 051915Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2188

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0279

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS CA US

SUBJECT: CALL FOR "SHOW OF STRENGTH" IN FISHERIES DISPUTE

1. HALIFAX MAIL-STAR REPORTED JUNE 5 THAT NEW BRUNSWICK FISHERIES MINISTER OMER LEGER HAD CONTACTED OR WAS ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT HIS NOVA SCOTIA AND NEWFOUNDLAND COUNTERPARTS FOR A "SHOW OF STRENGTH" IN SUPPORT OF THE GOC'S SUSPENSION OF THE 1978 INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH THE US. I PHONED LEGER'S OFFICE TO CONFIRM HIS REPORTED STATEMENT AND TO ASK WHY HE SAID IT AND WHAT HE HAD MEANT BY IT, BUT WAS TOLD HE WAS OUT OF THE OFFICE AND UNREACHABLE. HIS DEPUTY MINISTER, LEONCE CHENARD, SAID LEGER HAD PHONED HIM YESTERDAY EVENING AND THAT HE, CHENARD, HAD SAID AT THAT TIME THAT US-CANADA DISPUTE INVOLVED A FISHERY IN WHICH NOVA SCOTIAN FISHERMEN OPERATED BUT NOT ONE IN WHICH NEW BRUNSWICKERS OR NEWFOUNDLANDERS PARTICIPATED. ALTHOUGH CHENARD DID NOT COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY SO, I GOT IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS INDIRECTLY TELLING ME THAT HE HAD ADVISED HIS MINISTER AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO ENLIST THE OTHER PROVINCES IN A DEMARCHE.

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2. A RELIABLE SOURCE IN THE NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT INFORMED ME THAT LEGER SET UP A CONFERENCE CALL AT APPROX 1500 HRS (ADT) JUNE 5 AND SPOKE WITH BOTH NFLD FISHERIES MINISTER WALTER CARTER AND NS FISHERIES MINISTER DAN REID. CARTER AND REID, I UNDERSTAND, BOTH OPPOSED ANY JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE GOC'S

ACTION. INFORMANT ALSO BELIEVES THAT CARTER AND REID ATTEMPTED AND WERE PROBABLY SUCCESSFUL IN DISSUADING LEGER FROM MAKING ANY FURTHER UNILATERAL STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS UNFRIENDLY TOWARD THE US. PREVAILING FEELING IN MOST QUARTERS SEEMS TO BE REGRET RATHER THAN ANTAGONISM AND MOST OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY, WHETHER IN GOVT OR PRIVATE BUSINESS, SEEM TO AGREE WITH THE OLD SAW, "LEAST SAID, SOONEST MENDED."

MOORE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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